

NEW

PATENT

AMENDMENT A (PRELIMINARY)

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were filed as part of the original divisional application. In the amendment hereinabove, claims 1-22 have been cancelled and claims 23-146 have been added. Accordingly, claims 23-146 are now pending in this case. Early consideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

VEDDER, PRICE, KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ, P.C.

Date: February 23, 2004

By: 

Mark A. Dalla Valle  
Reg. No. 34,147

Attorney for Assignee  
222 N. LaSalle St.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-609-7620  
Customer No.: 23,418